

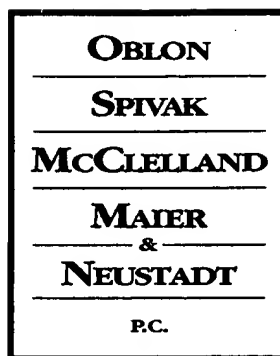


Docket No.: 214586US3

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GROUP 3600



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ISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
SHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/964,624

Applicants: Yukio HEMMI, et al.

Filing Date: September 28, 2001

For: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING WATER  
QUALITY IN NUCLEAR REACTOR AND  
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO WHICH THE  
METHOD IS APPLIED

Group Art Unit: 3641

Examiner: PALABRICA, R.

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Our check in the amount of --0-- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any  
ice exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted  
nents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to  
the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our  
sit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition  
eby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this  
is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

5-20-02

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :  
Tukio HEMMI, et al. : EXAMINER: PALABRICA, R.  
SERIAL NO: 09/964,624 :  
FILED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2001 : GROUP: 3641  
OR: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING  
WATER QUALITY IN NUCLEAR  
REACTOR AND NUCLEAR POWER  
PLANT TO WHICH THE METHOD  
IS APPLIED

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

MR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 16, 2002, Applicants elect  
with traverse Group I, Claims 1-4, drawn to a process of controlling water quality, classified  
in class 376, subclass 306. Applicants make this election based on the understanding that  
Applicants are not prejudiced against filing one or more divisional applications that cover the  
non-elected claims.

MPEP § 803 states:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without  
serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes  
claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search

area.

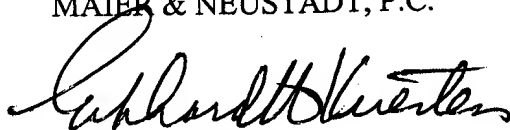
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the  
grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious*  
burden on the Examiner, whereas it would clearly be burdensome on Applicants to be

required to file, prosecute and maintain separate applications and patents on the identified.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single group be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-13 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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